



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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16 APRIL 1966

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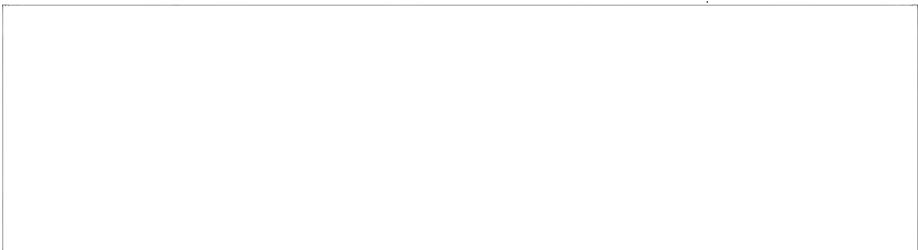
DAILY BRIEF
16 APRIL 1966

1. South Vietnam

Antigovernment defiance continued today in the northern provinces, despite the apparent agreement reached in Saigon between Ky and the Buddhist Institute. A mob in Da Nang publicly denounced Ky's election decree as a "trick." Radios in Da Nang and Hué are still declaring that the struggle will go on until the government falls.

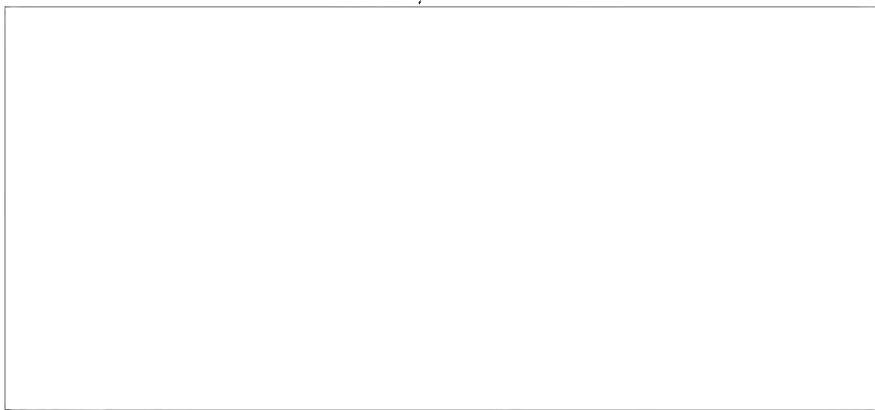
The government's position in the I Corps area has, in fact, worsened during the past few days. General Dinh, the new corps commander sent up there last week to re-establish Saigon's authority, is permitting the antigovernment leaders a free hand. There are increasing signs that forces under his command are becoming even more committed to the antigovernment movement. 50X1

A delegation from the Buddhist Institute in Saigon is to go to Da Nang tomorrow, purportedly to persuade Buddhists there to cease agitation. Institute leaders, however, could easily back down from their agreement with Ky. All they would need is something they could call a demonstration of Ky's "bad faith." They are aware of the dissension within the Saigon military and may prefer to await further developments.



Premier Ky seemed to be a deeply troubled man during a conversation today with General Lansdale. He asked for US help in arranging a personal meeting with General Thi and said he would even offer Thi the vice-premiership if this would help "save the country."

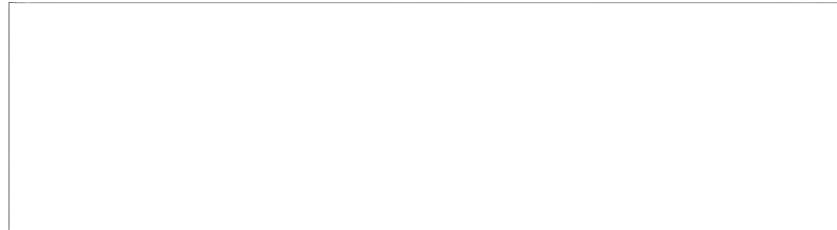
2. France



3. Greece

The political crisis eased appreciably yesterday when a Center Union deputy joined the government party, giving Stephanopoulos a majority of one in the 300-man chamber.

The extreme left, however, is still threatening to introduce a no-confidence motion when parliament reconvenes on Tuesday. This could be sticky in view of "revelations" yesterday that the government tried to bribe two other deputies to cross the floor.



4. Iraq

Our embassy notes several factors favoring an orderly installation of a new president. The cabinet and the National Defense Council, who will elect the president, enjoy a relatively secure power base and have been sensitive to popular longing for stability.

The embassy believes the election will be a serious effort to find a leader responsive to Iraq's best interests, and that the US need not fear the outcome.

5. Burundi

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[REDACTED] Radical elements, increasingly in the ascendancy there, have been making noises about inviting back the Chinese, who were thrown out in January 1965.

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6. Uganda

Yesterday Obote got an "emergency" meeting of parliament to vote in a new constitution and a new parliament (consisting of those who voted for the new constitution), and to confirm his position as head of state and government.

One deputy, referring to the some 100 police and military patrolling the parliamentary grounds, the closed public galleries, and the special forces types with automatic weapons in the lobby, said he thought the prime minister "had gone a bit far in demonstrating he had taken over all the powers of government."

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